

Methods and apparatus for storing data. An apparatus in accordance with the present invention includes a tape cartridge which has a cartridge memory. The cartridge memory can store therein a set of label data and a cartridge stamp. The set of label data is read by a reader device only when the reader device, in conjunction with a controller, determines that the cartridge stamp has been updated. Methods in accordance with the present invention comprise steps of reading the set of label data if the cartridge stamp is determined to have been updated.